

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are currently pending. Applicants acknowledge the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-9 and 12-14 contain allowable subject matter. In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request the consideration and allowance of claims 1-15 in view of the following remarks.

In this Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 10, 11, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Bawa et al. (US Patent No. 4,732,715). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Bawa is directed to a method of manufacturing contact lenses. Specifically, Bawa discloses a method for controlling the polymerization during the casting of a polymeric contact lens to obtain a desired surface configuration in the lens. Even more specifically, Bawa discloses a polymer surface 33 having grooves or troughs which correspond to the radial lines 23 of a mask 22.

The claimed invention provides a radiation-transparent die half for a forming die having a beam outlet from a shaping beam outlet surface being spatially limited by a diaphragm. The diaphragm is constructed as a radiation-impermeable layer which is enclosed up to its end faces by radiation-transparent material.

In the present invention, the diaphragm contained in the material does not need to be adapted to an existing surface contour of the forming surface, rather, the surface contour may be manufactured in any desired manner with the existing diaphragm. In contrast, in Bawa, the mask does not limit the illuminating bundle of light but instead casts a shadow on the material to be hardened out. (See Column 2, Lines 13-16). By this mask, the hardening out of the material is influenced locally and not prevented from determining the form of the emerging contact lens which is determined by a rotating half mold. In other words, Bawa does not form contact lens using a diaphragm as in the present invention. Specifically, Bawa does not disclose that the diaphragm is constructed as a radiation-impermeable layer which is enclosed by a radiation-transparent material. The mask of Bawa is provided as an arrangement which either consists of a non-transparent material or is developed on a light transmissible material outside of the mold. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Bawa fails to teach or suggest a diaphragm being constructed as a radiation-impermeable layer which is enclosed up to its end faces by radiation-transparent material. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Bawa fails to teach or suggest all the features recited in claims 1 and 11.

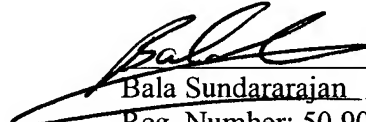
Claims 10 and 15 are dependent upon independent claims 1 and 11. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 10 and 15 recite patentable subject matter for at least the same reasons mentioned above. Accordingly, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 10, 11, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Claims 2-9 and 12-14 were objected to for being dependent upon rejected claims. Applicants request maintaining claims 2-9, and 12-14 in abeyance until the final resolution of the rejected claims. Applicants also acknowledge the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-9 and 12-14 contain allowable subject matter.

For the reasons presented above, claims 1-7, all the claims pending in the application, are believed by Applicants to define patentable subject matter and should be passed to issue at the earliest possible time. A Notice of Allowance is requested. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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